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interesting and careful treatment this fact is not sufficiently accentuated. Southern agriculturists are well-nigh unanimous in admitting the evil effects of too assiduous devotion to cotton raising, and are urging the introduction of variegated farming. For example the cotton section of Arkansas points, this year, to the greater success of those portions of the state where variegated farming is carried on. Dr. Hammond's indication of the controlling force exerted by the existing system of credit is valuable since it attracts attention to some essential difficulties of the agricultural situation in the South, and indicates that the non-adoption of mixed farming is not attributable simply to *vis inertiae*.

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*Select Documents of United States History, 1776-1861.* Edited with notes by WILLIAM MACDONALD. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897. 12mo, pp. 465.

THIS handsomely printed volume contains the text of some ninety-seven documents which for one reason or another have been important in our national history. The collection begins with the Declaration of Independence and ends with the constitution of the Confederate States of America. It consists of constitutions, laws, treaties, presidents' messages, executive and congressional reports, supreme court decisions, executive orders, speeches, and even unofficial reports, etc., such as the report of the Hartford convention and the constitution of the American anti-slavery society.

Such a selection must reflect largely the personal views of the editor as to the relative importance of the various documents; and it would be difficult to justify the inclusion of some of the material on any principle which would not take in much more. It must be allowed, however, that no worthless matter has been used and that the volume as a whole is a valuable addition to the resources of the class room for the purposes of the teacher of American history and politics.

The editor has attempted in many instances to select from the documents those parts which in his opinion are significant and important. This is even a more delicate matter than selecting the documents themselves, and although good judgment seems to have been shown at this point also, such work can never be thoroughly satisfactory and would be positively misleading if students were to stop with those

extracts instead of going as far as possible to the full documents in their original form.

A series of brief introductory notes containing useful bibliographical information increase the practical utility of the book.

EDMUND J. JAMES.

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*L'Enseignement primaire dans les pays civilisés.* By E. LEVASSEUR.

Paris : Berger-Levrault et Cie., 1897. 8vo. pp. ix+628.

IN this work M. Levasseur has availed himself of the assistance of members of the International Institute of Statistics, and brought together a mass of information in regard to the elementary schools of every country in which they have been established. The skill with which this information is spread before the reader is sufficient to establish a scientific reputation. The book is divided into two parts, the first containing chapters on the school systems of different countries, including, besides statistics, the history of elementary instruction with some account of legislation and mode of administration, financial resources, and the methods of gathering and publishing statistics; and the second part, a comparative study of the systems of instruction in the various countries. Two appendices and an index close the volume. The three most extended chapters are on France, Germany, and the United States. The two last named countries, says M. Levasseur, represent different and very important types of elementary instruction. It is gratifying to the American to find almost twice as much space devoted to the schools of the United States as is given to either of the other countries. The whole work is a suggestion of what might be accomplished by an international bureau of statistics that would on some common basis gather and present statistical information in regard to education. M. Levasseur is himself one of the strongest advocates and promoters of the establishment of such a bureau.

I. W. HOWERTH.

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*Social Facts and Forces.* By WASHINGTON GLADDEN. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1897. 12mo. pp. 156.

*Inequality and Progress.* By GEORGE HARRIS. Boston : Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1897. 12mo. pp. 237.

MR. GLADDEN'S book is a collection of lectures delivered in Steinway Hall, Chicago, as the "Ryder Lectures," and later before the